



STATE OF IOWA

Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg

BOARD OF NURSING
Kathleen R. Weinberg, MSN, RN
Executive Director

Memorandum

To: Nursing Education Programs

From: Jimmy A. Reyes, Associate Director of Practice and Education

Date: April 28, 2020

Re: NCLEX testing update

The Iowa Board of Nursing has received a few questions regarding the NCLEX testing process during the COVID-19 epidemic. Below are some questions and answers that may be useful as you continue to make changes impacting nursing education in Iowa.

What is the current state of the NCLEX examination process?

The NCSBN has reported that during the week of April 19, 2020, 1,847 candidates were able to test. The exam has been running smoothly with no reported issues and continues to perform as expected to measure candidate ability.

For the week of April 26, 2020, testing will occur at 272 Pearson VUE centers. All Iowa testing centers are operating at this time.

When will the Pearson Professional Centers (PPCs) open their entire network?

On May 1st Pearson VUE will begin opening their entire Pearson Professional Center network across the U.S. and Canada. They anticipate these test centers will be open for business on a daily basis with Pearson VUE employed staffing. All PPCs will be social distancing compliant and will remain open unless government mandated to shut down. The opening of all PPCs will be completed by May 4.

Who gets priority for seating and testing at the Pearson Professional Centers?

Per NCSBN contract, NCLEX candidates get priority for seating at PPCs.

How does social distancing impact on the peak NCLEX testing period?

Due to social distancing guidelines, PPCs will be at 50% capacity. NCSBN and Pearson are working on solutions for the backlog of candidates looking to schedule during the peak NCLEX testing period (May 2020 – August, 2020).

Possible solutions may include increasing shifts at PPCs and the use of educational facilities' media centers in the summer months.